

Message Text

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11

ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 AID-20 IGA-02 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /085 W

----- 001706

R 080705 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5043

SECDEF

CINCPAC

INFO JCS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CH/ JUSMAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5279

DEFENSE FOR ASD: ISA

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJ: C-123 K AIRCRAFT DISPOSITION

REF: A. SECDEF 031505 Z

B. CINCPAC 052206 Z (NOT PASSED STATE)

1. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH JUSMAG AND WITH KNOWLEDGE OF AMBASSADOR BYROADE, I HAVE INITIATED STEPS TO ELICIT GOP RESPONSE AS TO ACCEPTANCE OF SIXTEEN C-123 K AIRCRAFT UNDER CONDITIONS AND IN LIGHT OF TIMING AND FUNDING PROBLEMS INDICATED REFTELS.

2. TO ENABLE JUSMAG TO ENGAGE AFP LEADERSHIP IN DISCUSSIONS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP GOP POSITION, AND TO EXPLORE MOST FEASIBLE MEANS OF FUNDING SPARES, AGE AND TRAINING IF THAT DECISION POSITIVE, I ASKED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR MAY 7 TO INFORM PRESIDENT MARCOS OF USG DECISION THAT SIXTEEN OF THESE AIRCRAFT CAN BE ALLOCATED IF ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED SATISFACTORILY. TO
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ENSURE THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, AS PLANNING PROCEEDS, I ASKED HIM TO INDICATE TO MARCOS CLEARLY THAT SOME TIME AND MONEY WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE AIRCRAFT COULD BE MADE FULLY OPERATIONAL, AND THAT DISCUSSION WITH PAF AS WELL AS FURTHER INVESTIGATION BY USAF ARE NECESSARY BEFORE DELAY AND COST CAN BE ESTIMATED MORE RELIABLY.

3. MELCHOR, APPARENTLY ALLUDING BACK TO CONVERSATIONS DURING HIS MOST RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON, PARAPHRASED MY STATEMENT AS MEANING " YOU NOW HAVE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF A SUPPORT PACKAGE OF \$200,000 PER COPY." I DISSOCIATED MYSELF FROM THIS OR ANY OTHER FIGURE, AT THIS TIME. I SAID I WANTED PRESIDENT TO KNOW IMMEDIATELY OF FAVORABLE DECISION ON ALLOCATION OF SIXTEEN AIRCRAFT BUT AT SAME TIME TO UNDERSTAND WHY MANY PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WILL STILL NEED TO BE DISCUSSED. MELCHOR, WHO WAS ENROUTE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT, PROMISED TO PASS THE MESSAGE, AND I HAVE THEREFORE AUTHORIZED GENERAL GRIMSLEY TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH PHILIPPINE MILITARY LEADERSHIP TOWARD ELICITING GOP RESPONSE TO THIS OFFER WHILE DEFINING MORE PRECISELY WHAT ACCEPTANCE WOULD INVOLVE FOR PHILS AND FOR US. HE WILL REPORT FURTHER AS APPROPRIATE.

4. WE BELIEVE GOP SHOULD AND PROBABLY WILL ACCEPT, AND THAT FMS CREDIT MAY DEVELOP AS MOST FEASIBLE MEANS OF ABSORBING MOST OF ASSOCIATED COSTS EXCEPT TRAINING.
HAMILTON

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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